pathos, then brightly glad.

"That will do!" Mr. Renshaw cried, gayly rubbing his hands together in pleased delight. "You surpass your young friend entirely. Do you feel inclined to accept my offer to be leading singer in my opera?"

"I should like it very much if you are sure I am capable," Ada said, earnestly.

"I have no doubt of it at all. It is then settled, and Miss Freda will enter the chorus.'

This was not exactly what Freda had wished, and her rage knew no bounds at the decision, though she was careful to disguise her real feelings.

A few months later, and the two children made their first appearance on the stage, to their great delight.

Freda, who had never forgotten the fancied slight Mr. Renshaw had put upon her, waited impatiently for some means of revenging herself upon Ada.

It came sooner than she had anticipated—the very first night of the performance.

In one of the acts Ada, as the heroine, was obliged to fall back fainting in the arms of an attendant. Freda, on account of her beauty and intelligence, had been given that role, as it brought her into greater prominence before the audience.

She was ready, standing behind Ada, to catch her as she fell, when a sudden evil thought, impossible to resist, entered her head, and as her little friend sank down she moved to one side, letting Ada fall to the ground.

A startled cry arose, for the child's head had struck with some force against the woodwork; fortunately, the scene was finished, and they were able to carry her away to restore her to consciousness.

Freda, full of terror and remorse, hung fearfully over her, waiting for the gray eyes to unclose, the white cheeks to regain some of their lost color.

For many weeks after Ada lay helplessly ill, but at last, with careful nursing, the fever which had followed the shock and excitement gradually left her.

Freda was wholly miserable during Ada's illness, and her subdued sadness surprised Mr. Renshaw not a little; he began to imagine that the exertion she went through each day was perhaps injuring her health. Signor Tribili, however knew better, and one morning, to Freda's astonishment, sent for her in his own private room.

"Sit down," he began coldly; "I dare say you know why I sent for you. Your conscience ought to tell you."

Freda started and gazed at him fear-

"I should like to know why you moved back when Miss Ada fell that night, though you knew you were to hold her? Do not deny it, because I, watching closely, saw, and knew it was done purposely.

Freda burst into sudden tears, and flung herself in bitter humility at his feet.

"It is true-quite true. And I have never been happy since. I was jealous, because she had been chosen before me, and the temptation to harm her was too great to be resisted. Oh, forgive me, signor! If you only knew how much I have suffered, seeing her so ill and weak. Directly I had done it I was ill with regret."

Tribili's face softened ever so little as

he gazed on the grief-stricken form at his feet.

"It was wrong, very, especially as Ada is such a good girl. I always thought my children were so loving together. I am sorry to find this is not so. You say you are repentant? Well, prove it by confessing all to Ada, and if she forgives you I will."

"Yes, I will go to her. It is only right I should," she whispered, humbly, moving towards the door. "I think she will forgive me, she is so good."

Ada was surprised, even hurt at her friend's unkind behavior, but at last, overcome by the child's penitent tears and urgent entreaties, she freely forgave

Joyful at having won this much from Ada, Freda went quickly to Signor Tribili, receiving his full pardon. He made her, however, promise never to let a jealous thought enter her heart again towards her companions, and now she looks back with deep shame to the day when she had tried so effectually to avenge herself on her rival who is now her dearest friend.



'When I'm a man," said Johnny, "I'll be a sailor bold.

And I'll sail the mighty ocean in search of wealth untold.

And I'll build myself a castle and a fearful donjon keep,

And I'll have ten thousand vassals who will guard me in my deep.

'Then I'll rescue some fair princess from a robber, don't you see?

And she will thank me sweetly and say she'll marry me;

And when I wed the princess I'll be a king, you

And I'll have a million subjects who will bow before me low!"

But while he was a-dreaming of the time that was to be,

The teacher asked him gently the simple rule of Then his castle and his kingdom faded into air

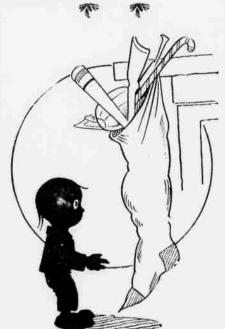
at once. And the crown that Fate decreed him was the

-St. Nicholas.



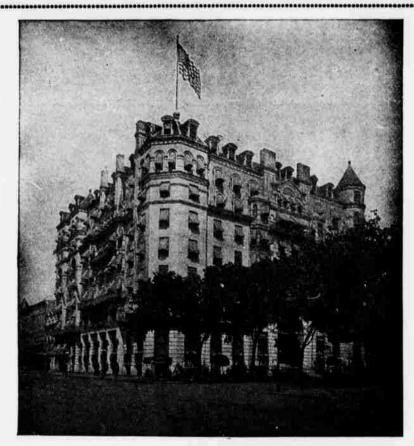
When is a door not a door? When it is a-jar.

tall cap of a dunce.



Нарру Томму

Tommy's happy as you see Tho' he's had no Christmas tree-There's a horn also a gun; You may be sure there'll be fun!



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